

line 17, after "processing," insert --one by one,--.

Claim 11, line 17, delete "or" and insert --and--;

line 20, after "processing," and insert --one by one,--.

#### REMARKS

Applicants have amended their claims to further clarify various aspects of the present invention. Specifically, the claims have been amended such that each of the independent method claims recite that the opening and closing devices are opened and closed every carrying-in and carrying-out of the substrate, one by one. See amendments to claims 1, 3 and 8. Moreover, the independent device claims have been amended to recite that the opening and closing devices provided respectively at a side of the air of the two lock chambers are opened and closed every carrying-in and carrying-out of the substrate to be subjected to processing or the substrate which has been subjected to processing, one by one. In connection with these amendments to the claims, note previously considered claim 8, for example.

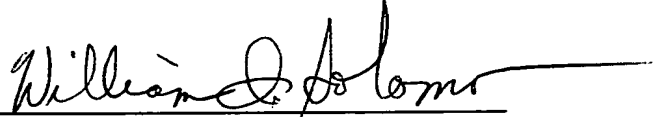
The undersigned notes the two additional U.S. Patents being submitted concurrently with this Submission. Consideration of these two additional U.S. patents, upon examination of the presently amended claims, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any

shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.30414V16) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William I. Solomon", written over a horizontal line.

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